



We must develop “humanist”,

ETHICAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

tam-tam: the Emmaus news wall

“We also need to discover, to rediscover, that money, social status and highly-paid jobs are not what is essential in life. That there are other values, other ways of living, other ways of being useful and gaining social recognition. We must develop “humanist”, non-profit-making work that can give us purpose and something to live for.” Abbé Pierre



Editorial

Patrick Atohoun, President of Emmaus International
From the very beginning, Emmaus was known for developing what we now call “an ethical and solidarity economy”: a clean and transparent economy that places humans ahead of profit, and redistribution ahead of personal gain. Across all continents, Emmaus’ defining characteristic is the creation of economic activity in neglected or undervalued sectors of capitalist

society via recycling, waste recovery and agriculture. However, these activities also allow the most marginalised to escape poverty and to understand what they are part of. Through these alternatives developed all over the world, Emmaus proves that an economy based on redistribution and sharing, that respects humans and the environment, is achievable and is, in fact,

the only possible response to the deregulation of our economy. Based on these principles, an ethical and solidarity economy not only allows for an escape from poverty but, more broadly, re-establishes equality between individuals. As such, it is part of our struggle for social and environmental justice.



All aboard

- Why do we stand up for an ethical and solidarity economy? You will shortly receive videos introducing our struggles – so keep an eye open for those!
- Are you working for an ethical and solidarity economy? Share your initiative(s) on the Act Emmaus platform! And discover initiative(s) carried out by other Emmaus groups around the world. Log onto the Act Emmaus platform: www.actemmaus.org/en/projects

Contact: Emmanuelle Larcher – e.larcher@emmaus-international.org – 00 33 (0)1 41 58 25 52

An Emmaus International publication – 2017
 communication@emmaus-international.org
 47 av. de la Résistance – 93104 Montreuil Cedex. France
 Publication director: Patrick Atohoun
 Designed and drafted by: Marie Florens, Sabine Benjamin, Nathalie Pére-Marzano
 Translated by: Jessica Johnstone
 Graphic design: Nicolas Pruvost (www.tiens-donc.com)
 Illustration by: Claire Robert (claire.robert.org)
 Photo credits: Emmaus International, Didier Gentilhomme, José Luis Iniesta
 Quotation: Abbé Pierre, Fraternité, 1999

www.emmaus-international.org



non-profit-making work that can give us purpose and something to live for.

Emmaus on the move



AFRICA | Sewing school at Emmaus Solidarity, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

“In Burkina Faso, the private, costly school system means many young people leave school at a young age. Since 1994, our school, which provides professional sewing training, has allowed young orphans and vulnerable children to gain a diploma in 3 years. This training provides them with employment but is also beneficial for the population as a whole, providing access to quality goods at decent prices and improving living conditions. This is all part of the ethical and solidarity economy. Another unique aspect of this project is that it is financed by the sending of containers. Sales of materials received from the European groups not only provide goods to the local people, but also create employment and generate funding to develop the sewing school, thus proving that the sharing of wealth can develop economies at an international level.” - Emmanuel Siambo



THE AMERICAS | Waste recycling at Emmaus Teresina (Brazil)

“Our community used to work in recovery, sorting, restoration and selling on objects at a low price in our second-hand shop. In 2012, a fire devastated our whole community and destroyed our economic activity. We had to find a new means of subsistence, and we decided to move into recycling. The Companions collect separated household waste, then the packaging, metals, paper, plastic and glass that is collected is sorted and pressed in order to be resold to recycling industries. As well as its positive impact on the environment, this project provides a living for 18 people, and has breathed new life into our community. We also work with communities that manufacture brooms from plastic bottles. Eventually, we would like to tell others about our experience in order to spread it to other towns.”



ASIA | Microcredit at the AEP Professional Training Association (Lebanon)

“AEP provides loans for those carrying out small projects that are not granted funding from commercial banks in order to help them develop their activities (trade, crafts, agriculture, etc.). We support them in developing a mature project, ensuring that they are in charge of the process. We also help them deal with problems linked to bad weather or market fluctuations. The long-term goal is for them to reintegrate into the mainstream. Where possible, we support projects carried out by cooperative groups that offer equal rights and salaries. AEP is helping to develop a parallel, solidarity-based economy that allows the weakest to survive and gain more freedom. In line with the movement’s Universal Manifesto, we put ourselves at the service of all people without discrimination, and fight against impoverishment and the suffering it generates.” - Léna Sayad



EUROPE | The Emmaus Lublin Cooperative (Poland)

“10 years ago, at the time when the social and solidarity economy was developing in Poland, we started to think about how we could diversify our resources. The Companions unanimously decided to set up a social cooperative specialized in producing street furniture, as we already had the necessary workshops and skills for this. We produce benches, bins and signs for towns, housing cooperatives and companies. The cooperative model suits the community well: everyone can have their say, and responsibilities are shared. In 2016, the cooperative opened a pizzeria. The Companions and the long-term unemployed that work for us were trained by a well-known Italian chef in Lublin. Our pizzeria is now in the top ten of the best pizzerias in Lublin for the quality of its products and its atmosphere!” - Zbigniew Drazkowski



Next port of call... Gloucestershire (UK)

President of Emmaus UK, treasurer for Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International board member, Michael Heap is also a member of the working group on ethical finance. Here he explains the group’s goals and ideas.

Do you consider Emmaus as acting for ethical and solidarity economy? Emmaus works with the most marginalised and forgotten in society. Given the predominant role of finance and money, we must act for more equality and offer financial opportunities to those who are most marginalised among us. The economic system is currently governed by “big business” and the vested interests of banks and other financial institutions. Our role is to empower those who have least and give them a voice, demonstrating that there is an alternative way, which we live every day in our groups.

What is the purpose of the “Ethical finance” working group? Our work is part of the implementation of the struggles decided on at the 2016 World Assembly, fitting within the ethical and solidarity economy. We capture and understand what the groups are doing to inform our ideas and to make recommendations to the movement. We also think about actions and collective lobbying that we could carry out around this topic. Should the movement boycott certain banks? Or develop our own system of



micro-credit to fund alternative projects? These are issues to be considered.

How can we act on an international level? I think we need to promote our alternatives and align ourselves with organisations and movements who are working in this area and who promote our alternatives way. We need to be visible at events promoting ethical international finance, actively lobbying for those who have least and holding companies to account for practices that deepen inequality.